

# **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Savannah's Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (HCD) plan is a comprehensive plan addressing the City's housing, homelessness, and non-housing community development needs for the two-year period 2001-2002. The plan contains goals, measurable objectives, and implementation strategies for each of the plan's elements. Additionally, the plan contains a One-Year Action Plan describing the activities the City will fund, implement, or support the implementation of in 2001.

The plan complies with regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1995. HUD requires entitlement communities such as Savannah to consolidate its planning, application, and reporting requirements for most HUD programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and the HOME Investment Partnership grant programs. This plan must be updated each year, adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD prior to the beginning of the City's fiscal year.

The City's 2001-2002 HCD Plan, as amended, builds upon existing plans already in place and approved by City Council. These include the 1995-1997 HCD Plan, the 1997 HCD One-Year Action Plan, the Fair Housing Action Plan, the Homeless Authority's Comprehensive Plan, the Strategic Housing Plan (1998), and the Neighborhood Quality Benchmarks: 1996 Report to the Community, and 1998-2000 HCD Plan.

The 2001-2002 HCD Plan is divided into seven main sections; Housing, Economic Development, Community Development, Youth Development, Homelessness, the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy, and the One-Year Action Plan.

## **Housing**

This section of the plan contains an analysis of existing housing conditions, including public housing and special needs housing. The City's housing goals, objectives, and strategies to achieve those objectives are stated. The housing section has eight core goals:

1. A city in which the majority of residents in each neighborhood are homeowners.
2. A city in which all housing is in standard condition.
3. A city in which all residents, regardless of income level, have access to affordable housing.
4. A city in which all rental housing is affordable and in standard condition.
5. A city in which all elderly residents and disabled residents have access to appropriate housing to meet their individual needs, including supportive housing, assisted housing, and housing modifications.

6. A city free of housing discrimination.
7. A city safe from residential lead-based paint hazards.
8. A city with public housing neighborhoods free of substandard and inadequate facilities.
9. A city with public housing neighborhoods controlled and managed by its residents.

## **Economic Development**

This section of the HCD Plan examines existing conditions regarding small business development, labor, and unemployment with a focus on economic development activities in Savannah, especially in the low-income neighborhoods. The vision statement for Savannah's economic development is:

*A city with planned, balanced and sustainable economic growth that is environmentally sound and will support and provide jobs for all who wish to work, and provide a tax base to support community life.*

The Economic Development section of the HCD Plan has four core goals:

1. A positive environment that provides opportunities for small businesses, minority and female-owned businesses.
2. A city with economically vibrant neighborhoods.
3. A skilled workforce earning a living wage, and capable of supporting a diverse group of industries.
4. A city with a diverse group of industries supporting quality jobs.

## **Community Development**

This section of the Plan contains an analysis of existing non-housing conditions for public infrastructure, public facilities, and public services. The Community Development section of the HCD Plan has seven core goals:

1. A city free of substandard and inadequate parks and recreational areas and facilities.
2. A city in which all citizens regardless of age, gender, physical and mental capabilities have convenient and affordable access to leisure time facilities and programs of choosing.
3. A city free of substandard and inadequate infrastructure.
4. A city where the existing and planned water and sewer utilities provide for current and future water and wastewater needs in accordance with Federal, State and local regulations.
5. A city in which all premises, streets, lanes, rights-of-way, and vacant lots are free of litter, debris, abandoned and derelict vehicles.
6. A city where all elderly citizens live independently and have a full role in the life of the community.

7. A city where all disabled citizens live independently, and lead full integrated lives in the community.

## **Youth Development**

In 1999, a subcommittee of the HCD Advisory Committee convened to update the portion of the HCD Plan addressing youth development. In prior plans, this was a single goal within the Community Development section. However, it was determined by the HCD Advisory Committee and City staff that issues affecting youth warranted a greater emphasis in the plan.

The subcommittee identified the community's vision for Savannah's youth as:

*A City in which every child is healthy, happy, secure, well-educated, and prepared to assume a productive adulthood.*

The following goals were identified:

1. Strong families with parents that have the desire and skills necessary to raise emotionally, mentally, and physically healthy children.
2. Parents with the emotional, financial, and parenting resources necessary to raise emotionally, mentally, and physically healthy children.
3. A City and neighborhoods with positive role models for youth.
4. Structured and supervised cultural, social, and recreation opportunities for youth.
5. Safe, reliable, and convenient transportation for youth and families to schools, youth programs, and health services.
6. Positive private sector economic opportunities for youth.
7. Youth with high self-esteem that respect authority, adults, and each other.
8. An educational system and environment that prepares youth for a happy and productive adulthood by providing the skills necessary for continued technical training, college, and/or employment as well as encourages parents to participate in educating their children.
9. All children are mentally, emotionally, physically, and socially, ready for school.
10. A long range youth development planning, implementation, and monitoring process that is open to the public; comprehensive in scope; identifies the needs of youth; encourages youth participation; works to realize articulated goals and objectives; encourages public/private partnerships; and allows accurate tracking of progress.
11. Youth service organizations that provide quality, substantive, effective services, and that work in a collaborative manner.
12. A City with mentally, emotionally, and physically healthy youth that grow up in a safe environment free of crime and violence.
13. Youth free of drug use and addiction.
14. Youth free of abuse and neglect.

## **Homelessness**

This section of the Plan contains an analysis of the causes and extent of homelessness, and the provision of services to the homeless. Goals, objectives, and strategies are derived mainly from the Homeless Authority's Comprehensive Plan and its recently developed Continuum of Care service delivery system. The homelessness section of the plan has the simply stated goal: a city free of homelessness.

## **Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy**

The City has proposed to HUD a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy (NRS), in accordance with the terms of 24 CFR 91.215(e)(2) and CPD Notice 96-01. The area and strategy proposed closely follow the Strategic Economic Plan which the City submitted with its qualifying Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) application on June 30, 1994.

The proposed NRS Area comprises census tracts 1, 6.01, 10-13, 15, 17-27, 32, 33.01, and 101.01 (see Maps 1 and 11). Its approximate boundaries are:

North:	City limits, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Gaston St, Price St, Liberty Street, East Broad Street, and the Savannah River.
East:	City limits, Adair, Gwinnett and Pennsylvania Streets
South:	Victory Drive
West:	Stiles Ave., Interstate 16, Interstate 516, and W. Lathrop Ave.

The area is primarily residential and excludes the central business district. 70.5% of its population is low- or moderate-income.

The City has adopted a set of objectives specific to this area. These objectives are in compliance with the overall HCD Plan and address economic development, youth, public safety, infrastructure, and housing.

## **Prioritized Goals**

In 1999, the City identified key goals in the Housing, Economic Development and Youth Development sections as priorities. These priorities were amended in 2001-2002 HCD Plan. The specific goals identified as priorities are included in a separate section of the HCD Plan.

### **One-Year Action Plan**

This section of the Plan describes how 2001 CDBG, ESG., and HOME funds will be used during the year to address the City's housing, homelessness, and non-housing community development goals and objectives.

### **ADOPTION**

Savannah's HCD plan, including the one-year action plan, was approved by the Savannah City Council on October 19, 2000. The resolution adopting the plan is included in Appendix E.